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United States Department of State 16

Washington, D.C. 20520

January 6, 1992

Raymond D. Fowler, Ph.D
American Psychological Association
1200 Seventeenth Street
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Dr. Fowler:

Thank you for your letter of November 7 to Secretary Baker regarding his visit to China and the human rights situation there.

We fully share your concern for the plight of dissidents in China who are imprisoned for nothing more than the non-violent expression of their political views. The Secretary's November 15-17 visit was an important part of the Administration's effort to seek changes in China's human rights policies. Gains were made as a result of the trip, though much remains to be done.

During the Secretary's visit, China for the first time provided an accounting of the persons whose names were on a list submitted to the Chinese government in June. We welcome this step, but we continue to work for the ultimate goal of the release of all those imprisoned only for the non-violent expression of their political or religious beliefs. We also raised specific cases of persons detained without trial, religious detainees, and those imprisoned in Tibet. We urged the Chinese to allow prison monitoring by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In response to our representations, Chinese officials assured the Secretary that exit permits would be issued to persons who do not have criminal charges pending against them.

Please be assured that we will continue to press for improvements in China's human rights situation, and the plight of non-violent political dissidents in particular, until our concerns have been resolved.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Perito, Director
Office of Chinese and
Mongolian Affairs

